

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 25-04-00.1, 25-04-02, 25-04-04, 25-04-04.1,  
2 25-04-05, 25-04-05.1, 25-04-08, 25-04-08.1, 25-04-14, and 25-04-17 of the North Dakota  
3 Century Code, relating to the life skills and transition center.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-00.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **25-04-00.1. Definitions.**

8 For the purposes of this chapter:

- 9 1. "Department" means the department of health and human services.
- 10 2. "Eligible" means an individual has been deemed eligible by the department for  
11 developmental disability services.
- 12 3. "Individual served" is an eligible individual who is a legal resident of the state of North  
13 Dakota and is receiving services from the life skills and transition center.
- 14 4. "Noneligible" means a minor who is a legal resident of the state and has not been  
15 deemed eligible by the department for developmental disability services.
- 16 5. "Nonresident individual served" includes:
  - 17 a. Any individual served by the life skills and transition center who is under eighteen  
18 years old and whose responsible relative is not a bona fide resident of this state.
  - 19 b. Any enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe for whom the United  
20 States government has, through its statutes and regulations, a responsibility for  
21 their care.
- 22 ~~5-6.~~ "Nonresident responsible relative" includes the nonresident spouse, father, or mother  
23 of the individual served. It includes the bureau of Indian affairs in those cases involving

- 1 an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe for whom the United States  
2 government has, through its statutes and regulations, a responsibility for their care.
- 3 ~~6-7.~~ "Nonresidential services" means rehabilitative services and supports that are provided  
4 in a family home or community setting.
- 5 ~~7-8.~~ "Residential services" are specialized services and supports provided at the life skills  
6 and transition center facility which include both room and board and rehabilitative  
7 services in accordance with an individual's care and support plan. Residential services  
8 provided at the life skills and transition center are available to address an individual's  
9 needs for stabilization.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **25-04-02. Purpose of life skills and transition center.**

- 13 1. The purpose of the life skills and transition center is to serve as a specialty care and  
14 support resource for eligible individuals with developmental disabilities who are  
15 experiencing crisis or who would benefit from stabilization, and to work together with  
16 parent, guardian, or legal custodian and care teams to identify opportunities for each  
17 individual served to live in a family home or community setting of their choice when  
18 possible.
- 19 2. The life skills and transition center must be maintained to provide care, treatment,  
20 training, rehabilitation, and supervision for eligible individuals. For this purpose the  
21 department may introduce and establish such rehabilitative and support services as, in  
22 its judgment, will best prepare the individuals served to live in the most integrated,  
23 independent setting possible.
- 24 3. The life skills and transition center may provide both residential services and  
25 nonresidential services and effectuate its powers and duties to best serve eligible  
26 individuals who may benefit from those activities.
- 27 4. Upon approval of the commissioner of the department or designee and in the opinion  
28 of the superintendent of the life skills and transition center, the life skills and transition  
29 center may provide:

- 1           a. Residential services or nonresidential services and effectuate its powers and  
2                     duties to best serve noneligible individuals who are experiencing crisis or who  
3                     would benefit from stabilization and may benefit from those activities; or  
4           b. Consultation services to public and private providers serving noneligible  
5                     individuals.

6           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8           **25-04-04. Who may receive benefits of life skills and transition center.**

- 9           1. Subject to this chapter and to any rules adopted by the department, the benefits of the  
10           life skills and transition center may be received only by:
- 11           a. Eligible individuals who may benefit from services provided by the life skills and  
12                     transition center who, in the opinion of the superintendent of the life skills and  
13                     transition center are of suitable age and capacity to receive care, treatment,  
14                     training, rehabilitation, or supervision by the life skills and transition center or  
15                     whose disabilities prevent them from receiving training and instruction in the  
16                     public schools;
- 17           b. Eligible individuals who, in the opinion of the superintendent of the life skills and  
18                     transition center, may benefit from services provided by the life skills and  
19                     transition center and who are in need of stabilization supports and cannot be  
20                     properly cared for in their family home or other available community settings; or
- 21           c. Eligible individuals who, in the opinion of the superintendent of the life skills and  
22                     transition center, may benefit from either residential services or nonresidential  
23                     services provided by the life skills and transition center; or
- 24           d. Noneligible individuals who, upon approval of the commissioner of the  
25                     department or designee and in the opinion of the superintendent of the life skills  
26                     and transition center, may benefit from:
- 27                     (1) Residential services for up to ninety days, unless an extension is granted for  
28                             an additional ninety days by the superintendent of the life skills and  
29                             transition center to facilitate effective transition;
- 30                     (2) Nonresidential services provided by the life skills and transition center; or

1                   (3) Consultation services to public and private providers serving noneligible  
2                   individuals.

3           2. Residents and nonresidents of this state may receive services from the life skills and  
4           transition center. Priority, however, must be given to residents of this state.

5           **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-04.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **25-04-04.1. Program management for an individual served.**

8           The department shall ensure active program management is maintained for eligible-  
9 individuals served and noneligible individuals receiving residential services at the life skills and  
10 transition center.

11           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13           **25-04-05. Qualifications for accessing services provided by life skills and transition**  
14 **center - Educational or related services without charge for individuals twenty-one years**  
15 **of age and under.**

16           1. The superintendent of the life skills and transition center may admit an eligible or  
17 noneligible individual to the life skills and transition center for residential services  
18 based on consideration of the following factors:

19           a. Ability of the life skills and transition center to provide the appropriate level of  
20 care based on the individual's need.

21           b. Health and safety considerations for both the individual served and other  
22 individuals currently being served by the life skills and transition center.

23           c. The individual may be admitted without exceeding the resident capacity of the  
24 facility as specified in the professional standards of the department.

25           d. A noneligible individual may not receive residential services to the exclusion of an  
26 eligible individual, unless the noneligible individual is receiving residential  
27 services before the life skills and transition center receives an application to  
28 admit an eligible individual for residential services.

29           2. The superintendent of the life skills and transition center may approve an eligible or  
30 noneligible individual for nonresidential services provided by the life skills and  
31 transition center if all of the following conditions have been met:

- 1           a. Application has been made on behalf of the individual by a department  
2           developmental disabilities program manager, a parent, guardian, or legal  
3           custodian, in accordance with procedures established by the department.
- 4           b. Information has been submitted to the life skills and transition center which allows  
5           the superintendent to determine that the ~~individual served~~eligible or noneligible  
6           individual would benefit from ~~nonresidential~~;  
7           (1) Nonresidential stabilization services offered by the life skills and transition  
8           center for the purpose of avoiding institutionalization or further  
9           destabilization of the individual's living situation; or  
10          (2) Consultation services to public and private providers serving noneligible  
11          individuals.
- 12          3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, no eligible individual served,  
13          twenty-one years of age or under, no noneligible individual, eighteen years of age or  
14          under, or the estate or the parent of such individual, may be charged for educational or  
15          related services provided at the life skills and transition center. Except as provided in  
16          subsection 4, the department has prior claim on all benefits accruing to such  
17          individuals served or noneligible individuals for medical and medically related services  
18          under entitlement from the federal government, medical or hospital insurance  
19          contracts, workforce safety and insurance, or medical care and disability programs.  
20          For purposes of this subsection, "related services" means transportation and such  
21          developmental, corrective, and other supportive services, as determined by the  
22          department of public instruction, as are required to assist an individual with a  
23          developmental disability to benefit from special education. The cost of related services  
24          other than medical and medically related services must be paid by the life skills and  
25          transition center, the school district of residence of the child with a ~~developmental~~-  
26          disability, and other appropriate state agencies and political subdivisions of this state.  
27          The department of public instruction, the department, the school district of residence,  
28          and other appropriate state agencies and political subdivisions, as determined by the  
29          department of public instruction, shall determine and agree to that portion of related  
30          services, other than medical and medically related services, for which each agency

1 and political subdivision is liable. The department of public instruction may adopt rules  
2 necessary to implement this section.

- 3 4. Parents of an eligible individual, who is twenty-one years of age or under, are not  
4 required to file, assist in filing, agree to filing, or assign an insurance claim when filing  
5 the claim would pose a realistic threat that the parents would suffer a financial loss not  
6 incurred by similarly situated parents of children with disabilities. Financial losses do  
7 not include incidental costs such as the time needed to file or assist in filing an  
8 insurance claim or the postage needed to mail the claim. Financial losses include:
- 9 a. A decrease in available lifetime coverage or any other benefit under an insurance  
10 policy.
  - 11 b. An increase in premiums or the discontinuation of a policy.
  - 12 c. An out-of-pocket expense such as the payment of a deductible amount incurred  
13 in filing a claim unless the life skills and transition center pays or waives the  
14 out-of-pocket expense.

15 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **25-04-05.1. Transfer of individuals - Visiting privileges - Release and placement of**  
18 **individuals served.**

- 19 1. The superintendent of the life skills and transition center shall have the right of  
20 temporary transfer of any individual served or noneligible individual, at the life skills  
21 and transition center, to an appropriate hospital or other specialized facility when in the  
22 superintendent's opinion the immediate health and safety of the individual or the  
23 immediate health and safety of others requires the transfer.
- 24 2. Subject to reasonable rules for the orderly operation of the life skills and transition  
25 center, any parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the individual served or noneligible  
26 individual shall have the right of visiting and communicating with the individual served  
27 or noneligible individual and authorizing visits and communications with others.
- 28 3. The superintendent may authorize the temporary discharge of any individual served or  
29 noneligible individual to the custody of the individual served's or noneligible individual's  
30 parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the individual, or to another person designated  
31 by the parent, guardian, or legal custodian. In the absence of such authorization, any

1 parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the individual served may formally request, in  
2 writing, the individual served's temporary discharge. The discharge must be granted at  
3 the earliest reasonable opportunity, but not more than thirty days after receipt of a  
4 written application. If a discharge is, or would be, effected contrary to the advice of the  
5 superintendent based on a recent comprehensive evaluation of the individual, the  
6 superintendent shall so advise the parent, guardian, or legal custodian in writing.

7 4. The superintendent may arrange for the suitable placement of an:

8 a. An individual served outside the life skills and transition center and to discharge  
9 the individual served, provided placement has been preceded by a  
10 comprehensive evaluation. No such placement of an individual served may be  
11 effected until all reasonable efforts have been made to consult with the individual  
12 served's care team and parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the individual  
13 served; and

14 b. A noneligible individual outside the life skills and transition center or to discharge  
15 the noneligible individual.

16 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **25-04-08. Discharge of an individual served from life skills and transition center.**

19 An individual who receives residential services at the life skills and transition center must be  
20 discharged if any one of the following conditions are present:

- 21 1. The superintendent of the life skills and transition center, on the basis of a  
22 comprehensive evaluation and in consultation with the ~~individual's~~individual served's  
23 parent, guardian, legal custodian, or care team, finds that the care, treatment, training,  
24 rehabilitation, and supervision offered by the life skills and transition center are no  
25 longer needed.
- 26 2. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian who voluntarily admitted the individual served  
27 to residential services at the life skills and transition center and who retains legal  
28 custody makes a written request for discharge.
- 29 3. The individual served is admitted on indefinite transfer to a hospital, school, or other  
30 facility, or a protective service under the jurisdiction of another state, or another  
31 agency or department of this state.

1       4. A court of competent jurisdiction orders the discharge of the individual served.

2       5. The superintendent makes a determination that the noneligible individual no longer  
3       qualifies for accessing services provided by the life skills and transition center.

4       **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-08.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6       **25-04-08.1. Notification before discharge.**

7       Before discharge the superintendent of the life skills and transition center shall meet with  
8 the parent, guardian, legal custodian, or care team of the individual:

9       1. Individual served to be discharged, or with the court that ordered the individual served  
10 to receive services at the life skills and transition center pursuant to section 25-04-06.

11       2. Noneligible individual to be discharged.

12       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14       **25-04-14. Expenses chargeable against individual or individual's estate - Filing**  
15 **claims.**

16       Expenses for care and treatment of each individual served or noneligible individual by the  
17 life skills and transition center must, if practicable, be in accordance with the cost of providing  
18 care and treatment for the different degrees or conditions of mental and physical health and  
19 charges may be adjusted in accordance with the individual served's or noneligible individual's  
20 ability to pay which must include an estimate of potential future receipts, including amounts from  
21 estates. The department shall recover from the individual served or noneligible individual or  
22 from a discharged individual expenses chargeable for care and treatment. If any individual  
23 served or noneligible individual is receiving social security benefits or is a veteran or a  
24 dependent of a veteran who has received, is receiving, or is entitled to receive compensation or  
25 pension from the veterans' administration, the expenses are a current claim against the  
26 individual served or noneligible individual and may be recovered monthly by the department  
27 except that any amount required by the payer of the benefits to be paid directly to the individual  
28 served or noneligible individual must, upon approval of the department, be credited to the  
29 individual served's or noneligible individual's personal account from any money thus received.

30       **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-04-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
31 amended and reenacted as follows:



1       **25-04-17. Reduction or writeoff of accounts - Report to legislative audit and fiscal**  
2 **review committee.**

3       The department may authorize the reduction or writeoff of an individual served's or  
4 noneligible individual's past-due account from the life skills and transition center's financial  
5 records upon determining that the account is not collectible. The department, by September first  
6 after the close of each fiscal year, shall present a detailed report to the legislative audit and  
7 fiscal review committee on the status of accounts receivable for that fiscal year. The report must  
8 include:

- 9       1. An aging by individual classification of accounts remaining unpaid.
- 10      2. The amounts by individual classification by which accounts were reduced or written off
- 11       for reasons other than payment during that fiscal year.